

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the October 26, 2005 personal interview. Applicants' written record of that interview is incorporated in the following Remarks.

Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Buisson (EP0945672); and claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Schwanz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,299,334). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed at the personal interview, Buisson fails to disclose a signaling device for a motor vehicle with a skin presenting an outside face on the outside of the vehicle and having at least one rib projecting from an inside face, said rib providing support means to protect the skin from collapse at impact, as generally recited in claim 1.

Buisson fails to disclose all of the features recited in claim 1 because skin 24 is not on the outside of a vehicle because it is covered by item 17 as shown in Figs. 1, 3-7 and 9-10 of Buisson. Furthermore, Buisson's rib 20 does not provide support means to protect skin 24 from collapse at impact. As shown in Fig. 2 of Buisson, the unidentified skin located behind skin 7 is provided to refract and reflect light and not as a support means to protect a skin from collapse at impact.

As also discussed at the interview, Schwanz fails to disclose a signaling device for a motor vehicle with a skin presenting an outside face on the outside of the vehicle and having at least one rib projecting from an inside face, said rib providing support means to protect the skin from collapse at impact, as generally recited in independent claim 1. Schwanz fails to disclose all of the features recited in claim 1 because curved regions 26 are not ribs providing support means to protect the exterior of light exit lens 9 from collapse at impact because

curved regions 26 function to distribute light. See Schwanz at Fig. 3 and at col. 1, lines 54-61 and at col. 4, lines 7-36.

At the interview, the Examiner indicated, subject to further review and consideration, that Buisson and Schwanz fail to disclose a rib providing support means to protect a skin from collapse at impact, and that Buisson failed to disclose a skin presenting an outside face on the outside of a vehicle. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, Buisson and Schwanz fail to disclose all of the features recited in independent claim 1, as well as the additional features recited in the dependent claims thereof. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

It is also respectfully requested that this Supplemental Amendment be entered by the Examiner. At the interview, the Examiner indicated that a Supplemental Amendment would be acceptable to the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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